THE Little Review; OR, AN Inquisition of Scandal;

Consisting in *Answers* of *Questions* and *Doubts*, *Remarks*, *Observation* and *Reflection*.

Wednesday, July 25. 1705.

WEre the Society Conjurers, they would surely never own it; but they always profess themselves not so, what ever some Gentlemen take them to be; of which there have lately come a Parcel together. The first we shall speak to, we guess to be one whom too little Learning has made a F—l, as too much has made some Mad.

After a long sesquipedalious Introduction of Bombastical hodgpodg, he says,

July 2. 1705.

Honourable Gentlemen,

BUt this is all Circumlocution; now for the intent, or Subject which occasion'd this Letter, in which I shall be short; and between Thee and I, in plain Language, without any flourishes, (for tho' ye declare your selves no favourers of Bombast, I hope you will excuse me for once) it is as follows. A Friend tells me, for Matter of Fact, a Person, when clip'd Money went, took half a Crown that wanted Three Shillings and Six Pence of weight. Now, Gentlemen, if you please to satisfie in your next Review, *how Two Shillings and Six Pence can want Three Shillings and Sixpence of weight, it will be esteem'd a particular Favour; Your extraordinary skill in Solving Enigma's, and resolving intricate Questions, will not suffer me to doubt of your Ability to Answer my Request, who am, without Complement,*

Sincerely Yours.

No doubt of it, Sir, it must needs be a particular Favour to reconcile Impossibilities, and make Contradictions agree; and when we do it for any body, you shall be sure not to be left out: However, to repair your Friend's loss, We advise him to produce the Piece, and make Affidavit of the deficiency (for 'tis easier to swear to impossibilities than to explain 'em) then send it to the *Musæum* at *Oxford*, and we will engage the Keeper shall give him a Present of twice the Value of what it wants in Weight; and put it amongst his Choicest Coins, and he shall be underwritten a great Benefactor to the Collection of Curiosities.

Here

HEre comes a ſecond Querift with a Riddle, I'll puzzle their Brains I'll warrant them, ſays he, but perhaps not; Let's ſee, Sir.

H. *and* P. P.
Did ever agree
To blot out J. C.
But that could not be
Without the help of G.
M. *was a Maid, and was ſorry to ſee*
The Envy and Malice of H. *and* P. P.

Thus we untye the Knot; We take H. and P. P. to be *Herod* and *Pontius Pilate*; J. C. to be Je—s C——ſt; we take G. to be G——d; and M. to be *Mary*. If we do not ſee a better Explication, we muſt ſuppoſe this to be the true one; for one Story is always good till another is told.

BUT at laſt, one expects, not indeed that we ſhould ſee thro' a Millſtone, but thro' a ſort of a Graveſtone.

March 6. 1705.

SIR,

I Deſire you to unfold the Inſcription which is upon the Urn in the Frontiſpiece of the 7th Book of my Lord Clarendon's *Hiſtory: If you are not well enough ſkill'd in Antiquities to do it, confeſs it, for I have waited for an Anſwer theſe three Weeks*

Incog.

We have now look'd on the Inſcription, and find it to be this: L.C.V.C.F.E.C.C.P. and under written, *M. Burgeſs*, which they take to be a fair explication of the Matter; for all that ever ſaw his Devices, knew he never had a meaning in any of them; and we are of Opinion, that a Certain Honeſt Gentleman needed not to have been ſuſpected of an ill Meaning in a late Almanack Graved by him; for they might as well imagin'd the Prince of *Conti* to be repreſented there, as the P. of *W*——*s*. If *Michael* ſhou'd have ſtray'd ſo far from his Rule, as to have Relation in it to any thing; if it be in the Subſequent Hiſtory, the Society, upon Peruſal, might perhaps unfold it, tho' they ſee no reaſon for undertaking ſuch a Task; but if not, they are not aſham'd to own they cannot make any thing of it, for *ex nihilo nihil fit*. If my Body will inform us, we are ready to receive Inſtructions, and acknowledge the Favour; being much pleas'd with, tho' not ſo much ſkill'd in Antiquities.

THen ſays another Gentleman, Fools or Phyſicians, Conjurers or Chymiſts; come Gentlemen, What ſay you to this?

July 9. 1705.

PRay *what is the reaſon that Oyl of bitter Almonds is as ſweet as the Oyl of ſweet Almonds, and the Almonds ſtill retain their former bitterneſs. In anſwering this, you will very much oblige*

Gentlemen,
Your Humble Servant,
M. M.

'Tis very evident that the bitter Almond retaining its quality ſtill to its ſelf (as you your ſelf ſay) is the Reaſon why the Oyl is not bitter; but then the Cauſe of its not Communicating the bitter Particles to the Oyl, is what you would know; which is not from the retentive Nature of the Almond, but from the Oyl, which is a Body ſo open and laxative, that it will not incorporate with the bitter Spirits of the Almond, tho' never ſo violently preſs'd together; beſides, the Oleaginous part of the Almond is not bitter; yet a Spirit will draw off all the bitterneſs of an Almond, but Oyl will not receive a Tincture, or taſte from any thing 'tis mix'd with; for boyl it with Vermillion, it will retain its own Nature and Colour ſtill. If the Gentleman has any thing to object againſt it, we are willing to be better inſtructed.

THe Gentleman's Parallel, in the ſubſequent Letter, of our Labour to a Lottery, holds not good, for we have twenty Prizes to one blank, and get nothing even by the blanks neither; whereas they have almoſt the like Number of Blanks to Prizes, and get more by them, than they loſe by the Prizes.

June 28. 1705.

Digniſſime Vir,

I Look upon your Undertaking, in Reſolving Doubts, &c. to be as a Lottery, generouſly carried on for Publick Uſe and Improvement; The many Letters ſent, as ſo many Tickets; what you are pleaſed to Anſwer, as Benefit ones; thoſe thrown by as undeſerving your trouble, to be Blanks;

Blanks; which of the two Denominations this will come under, I leave to your generous Disposition, and shall scarce mention any the least Reason I have to expect your Answer, as that I am an Admirer and Promoter (as much as lies in a single Person) of your Ingenious Labours; but patiently wait your Solution to the following Queries; *The Case being as followeth.*

I am a Young Man, and now Courting a pretty agreeable Young Woman, whose Fortune, Temper, &c. I well approve of, and have no Objection, but what the World is too apt to *make it for me, namely, That she is red-hair'd; Whether it be a real disadvantage, or not, 'tis seemingly so to me, for the aforesaid Reason. I would therefore beg your Answer to the following Questions, as tending very much to the satisfaction of*

SIR,

Your Humble Servant

T. M.

1. Whether a Man lies under any real Inconveniencies that Marries such a Person; and if so, What they are?

2. Why the World should have so indifferent an Esteem for Persons of that Complection, and whether it was usually so in Preceding Ages?

3. How comes it to pass, that some Children are of that Colour, when their Parents are of a quite different one?

Sir, *For a Proof of my 2d Question, it is well known that the Mobb, last* Middlesex *Election, cry'd out, No Carrots, no Carrots, alluding to the Honourable Mr.* Barker's *Children, which was so Colour'd, and was all I heard said against him.*

First. 'Tis allow'd by all, that there is no such thing as a real Beauty so universally assented to, that its Being cannot be destroyed by capricious Fancy, for the same is Beautiful or Deform'd, according as the Person that Judges is inclined or averse.

But for a Man to say, I have no Oblections against the Lady, but that the World says she has a Fault, is very weak.

Supposing this to be a fault, and the Lady has it, take her, for you'll scarce meet with such another, that neither you nor the World can find but one fault with; but pray, is the World to choose for you, or you to please your self? If you do not think this a real Disadvantage enough to break the Match, 'tis no reason that the World's thinking so, should break it. A Man certainly lies under less disadvantage with such a Wife, than with a Black or Fair one, because he is in less danger (if so generally dislik'd) of losing her Love by the Temptations of other Men.

Secondly, The World was always led by Fancy, not by Reason; therefore none can be expected for this Gentleman's distaste of that Colour; they have commonly the most fine and clear skins of any Women; and formerly they thought otherwise than we do now. Many a Lover is apt now to call his Mistress his Goddess; *Juno* was call'd one too, yet she is represented to have red Hair.

The golden Locks from her Cœlestial head,
With comely Pride descend, and round her
Shoulders spread.

Fair Rosamond is Painted the same; *Mary*, Queen of the *Scots*'s too great Beauty partly caus'd her Death. She too was of the same Colour, and Queen *Elizabeth* but a small degree from it, yet she was Complimented as a Beauty. This shows the Opinion of former Ages; and the Society thinks, That Men or Women, are not to be esteem'd or despised so far for their outward Form, as upon that Account to be chosen to, or put back from State, Honour, or Matrimony.

Thirdly, They that can give a reason why Causes should always produce Effects like themselves, when we see they do not, may Answer this, Or why Gold, which is Yellow, makes a black stroke upon Paper; The Society presumes that no Physical Reason can be given that it should necessarily be, or not be so.

Mr. Review,

A*Mongst the crowd of your Petitioners, I am one who shall be glad to have your Sentiments in the following* Queries, *viz.*

Whether 'tis Lawful to Press Men (that are in an Honest way to get their livelyhood) into the Land Service, and to drag them away down to the *Savoy*, and keep them there three or four Months, till they are almost starv'd for want of Necessaries?

2. Whether 'tis not a shame for the Officers to sell them to one another, like Cattle in *Smithfield*,

field, after they have undergone so much hardship in the *Savoy*, as I have already said?

Your Answer in your next Review *will much oblige*

Your unknown Servant,
J. R.

We refer the Author of this, to what we have formerly deliver'd on the same occasion, *Reviews* N° 90. Vol. 2. N° 6. and if he be not satisfied therewith, upon Notice, he shall have a farther Answer.

THE Gentleman that sent a long *English* Letter, in relation to the Constitution of his Body; and a *Latin* one on the same Subject, shall have a *Latin* Answer to both, where he would have it left.

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